

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 OIC-02 /129 W
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, NO

SUBJ: LABOR PARTY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE DISCUSSES ESTABLISHMENT OF
SVALBARD ECONOMIC AND FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE

REF: OSLO 4566

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SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN LABOR NEWSPAPER "ARBEIDERBLADET" CORRESPONDENT
BJORN HANSEN, NOW COVERING CONCLUSION OF LOS CONFERENCE
IN NEW YORK, CABLED FOLLOWING STORY HEADLINED "200-MILE
ZONE FOR SVALBARD PROPOSED--DAME CONDITIONS FOR ALL", WHICH WAS
PUBLISHED IN SEPT 17 EDITION OF THE OSLO LABOR DAILY. ARTICLE
STATES THAT GON IS CONSIDERING "NON-DISCRIMINATORY" FISHING REGIME
AROUND SVALBARD AND GIVES IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS LIKELY OUTCOME
OF INTERAGENCY STUDY OF FISHING AROUND SVALBARD. ALTHOUGH
WE WERE ASSURED BEFORE ARTICLE APPEARED THAT NO FINAL DECISION
WILL BE TAKEN ON SVALBARD FISHERIES ISSUE BEFORE
US/NORWEGIAN SVALBARD CONSULTATIONS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER, LEAKING
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NON-DISCRIMINATORY REGIME OPTION REDUCES GON FLEXIBILITY. WE

PLANN DISCUSS STORY AND OTHER SVALBARD ISSUES WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
EARLY IN WEEK BEGINNING SEPT 20. END SUMMARY
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ARVEIDERBLADET HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A GROUP OF EXPERTS
IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT A
200 MILE NON-DISCRIMINATORY FISHERY ZONE BE ESTABLISHED AROUND
SVALBARD. THE RECOMMENDATION, WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE
SUBMITTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ASSERTS FULL NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY
IN THE WATERS AROUND SVALBARD. THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY THE
SVALBARD TREATY DO NOT APPLY FOR THE WATERS OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL
LIMITS. SAYS THE GROUP OF FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPERTS HEADED BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL KJELL ELIASSEN.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL AUTHORITIES,
THE GOVERNMENT AND THE STORTING, MUST TAKE A STAND ON THE FISHERY
LIMIT QUESTION THIS FALL IN ORDER TO AVOID AN UNCONTROLLED INFLUX
OF TRAWLERS IN THE NORTHERN BARENTS SEA AFTER NORWAY INTRODUCES
ITS 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THE REPORT,
WHICH IS NEARING COMPLETION, IS PRIMARILY OF A LEGAL
CHARACTER, AND EXAMINES THE FISHERY ISSUE IN LIGHT OF THE
PROVISIONS OF THE SVALBARD TREATY. THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL ON
ECONOMIC ZONES DOES INCLUDE AUTHORIZATION FOR A 200 MILE ZONE
AROUND SVALBARD.

THE INTENTION OF APPLYING NON-DISCRIMINATORY RULES OF
FISHING IN THE SVALBARD ZONE IS PROBABLY A RESULT OF THE NEED FOR
A TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL OF
FURTHER REGULATIONS OF THE FISHING. ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS WOULD
BE CONSIDERABLE SHOULD FISHING IN SUCH A ZONE BE LIMITED TO
NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN AND TO COUNTRIES WITH WHOM NORWAY WANTED
SPECIAL MUTUAL ARRANGEMENTS. FURTHERMORE, THE PURPOSE OF SUCH A
FISHERY ZONE AROUND SVALBARD IS NOT PRIMARILY TO ENSURE
BETTER AND RICHER FISHING AREAS FOR NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN, BUT TO
PROTECT FISH RESOURCES THERE. A 200 MILE ZONE ALONG THE
NORWEGIAN COAST WOULD NOT GO VERY FAR IN PROTECTING THE
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YOUNG GENERATIONS OF FISH IN THE BARENTS SEA REGION. ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE THREAT TO THE NORWEGIAN-ARCTIC COD WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY
ELIMINATED. A ZONE AROUND SVALBARD IS CONSIDERED IMPERATIVE TO
PROVIDE THE YOUNG FISH WITH EFFECTIVE PROTECTION.

EVEN THOUGH FOREIGN FISHERMEN WILL BE ABLE TO FISH ON THE
SAME TERMS AS NORWEGIANS IN A SVALBARD ZONE, THE NORWEGIANS
GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH QUOTAS AND REGULATE THE TYPE

OF FISH EQUIPMENT TO BE USED. THE SVALBARD TREATY ONLY APPLIES TO THE SVALBARD ISLAND AND SURROUNDING TERRITORIAL WATERS, WHILE THE LAW ON ECONOMIC ZONES ENSURES NORWAY SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OVER RESOURCES IN THE OCEAN OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF SVALBARD IN THE SAME WAY AS OUTSIDE THE NORWEGIAN MAINLAND. END TEST.
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2. COMMENT: HANSEN'S STORY MAKES PUBLIC THE KIND OF FISH CONSERVATION REGIME AROUND SVALBARD BEING CONSIDERED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY LEGAL ADVISER ELIASSEN'S INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE AS OUTLINED TO EMBASSY BY ELIASSEN IN JUNE (OSLO 3083). ELIASSEN HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT NORWAY WISHES TO KEEP OPTIONS FOR REGIME OPEN AND THAT NO FINAL DECISION IS LIKELY BE MADE ON REGIME UNTIL LATE IN YEAR AND UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH US ON SVALBARD NOW PROPOSED FOR MID-OCTOBER (OSLO 3844).

3. HOWEVER, BY MAKING CONSIDERATION OF "NON-DISCRIMINATORY" REGIME OPTION PUBLIC, STORY REDUCES GON'S FLEXIBILITY SINCE IT MUST NOW EXPLAIN ITSELF IF IT DECIDES UPON ANOTHER KIND OF REGIME.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER STORY WAS INSPIRED LEAK OR NOT, BUT SUSPECT IT WAS OWNING LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND LOS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK. WE PLAN, HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS ARTICLE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF SVALBARD CONSIDERATIONS WITH POLITICAL DIRECTOR VIBE EARLY NEXT WEEK AND WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION.
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ANDERS

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